

7. (Amended) The process according to any one of claims 4, 5, 18 and 20, wherein said microorganism having N-acetylneuraminic acid synthetase activity is a microorganism belonging to a genus selected from the group consisting of Escherichia, Neisseria and Streptococcus.

8. (Amended) The process according to any one of claims 4, 5, 17 and 19, wherein said microorganism capable of producing pyruvic acid is a microorganism belonging to a genus selected from the group consisting of Escherichia, Corynebacterium and Saccharomyces.

9. (Amended) The process according to any one of claims 4, 5, 18 and 20, wherein said microorganism capable of producing phosphoenolpyruvic acid is a microorganism belonging to a genus selected from the group consisting of Escherichia, Corynebacterium and Saccharomyces.

21. (Amended) The process according to claim 17 or 19, wherein said culture of a microorganism carrying DNA encoding N-acetylglucosamine 2-epimerase activity or treated matter thereof is copresent with said cultures of a microorganism having N-acetylneuraminic acid aldolase activity and said culture of microorganism capable of producing pyruvic acid or treated matter thereof.

22. (Amended) The process according to claim 18 or 20, wherein said culture of a microorganism carrying DNA encoding N-acetylglucosamine 2-epimerase activity or treated matter thereof is copresent with said cultures of a microorganism having N-acetylneuraminic acid synthetase activity and said culture of microorganism capable of producing phosphoenolpyruvic acid or treated matter thereof.